

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 5-5-25
Meeting Minutes May 5, 2025

Monthly Meeting May 5, 2025

Call to Order

The May Monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:05 pm on May 5, 2025 by President Ron Rich in the Community Room of the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present:

Ron Rich, Deb Shakotko, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, Bill Schneider, Bob Hess, Kevin Gilrain, Michael Susi

Zoom: Nolan Robinson

Absent:

Public: Jim DiGioia

Review April 7, 2025, Monthly Meeting Minutes

Bill moved and Bob seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Deb gave treasurer's report through April 30, 2025

Opening Checking Account Balance: \$ 28,538.56

Revenue: \$1593.06

Expenses: \$2022.94

Closing Balance: \$28,095.62

Total with CD, Reserves: \$ 58,873.77

Bill moved to approve the report and Kevin seconded: Passed.

Membership Report

Nolan reported that 113 members renewed for a total membership of 139. 273 renewal letters were sent out. Post cards of a vintage scene will be included in acknowledgement letters to new and renewing members. A targeted email will go to those who didn't renew.

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Kevin reported it snowed for the training planned for 4-12 at Niverville.

There were two new volunteers who were recruited via the email blast: Scott Kerns and Kate Kerwin

Kevin reported the email had a 71% opening rate. Thank you Kevin!

Earth Day Clean-up planned for 4-26-25 @ 9-11:30am with Scouts was rained out and will be rescheduled for the Fall. Kevin and Ron did the clean up.

Mowing was done last week but this week was too rainy.

Bill did mow Rossman to Sunnyside.

Our truck needs CFET ID Stickers with QR code.

The tractor and repaired sickle bar are now at Stuyvesant Falls. Will plan to get mowing done ahead of Colarusso's paving schedule.

Discussed training needs for new equipment (brush attachment), need for gaters and chaps and for wet conditions.

Paving Update: Andy Beers of Greenway informed Ron that Colarusso will commence paving in Greenport and work north, weather permitting. They aim to finish July 25th, They will be paving segments that had only been stone dust and subject to erosion.

Colarusso agreed to pave 70 foot path from the trail to the Valatie Library. Thank you.

Dog Waste Stations: Installation sites for Mutt Mitts and collection bin selected--North Chatham by the Depot, Niverville Trailhead, Main Street Valatie, Stuyvesant at Sunnyside Rd. The green stations (like the Kinderhook stations) are on order for \$1,974.21 total. Bill suggested we also order bags, supplies. Ron will organize the installation crew. It was noted that Lowes has sales on now for equipment and also gives discounts for Veterans. Kevin already has an approved budget for equipment.

Communication: We discussed ideas for a brochure to hand out at tabling events and get prices from ProPrinters and people who might do design work.

Farmers Market: Kinderhook Farmer's Market opening day went well despite rain on Saturday May 3rd. Mike and Ron will manned the tent for this event. We declined to be a sponsor Kinderhook Community Day.

Public Comments: Jim revisited his idea for a sidewalk connecting the Trail at Smith Rd with the Village sidewalk but has been frustrated by Village officials lack of interest.

Adjournment: Deb moved, Kevin seconded; Meeting adjourned 7:11 pm

Next Meeting June 9, 2025 @ 6pm ---NOTE this is the second Monday

We will meet Monday June 9th, 2025 in the Reading Porchat the Kinderhook Memorial Library due to the Friends of the Library scheduled for the Community Room.
Please use the Sylvester Street entrance.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison